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14 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT TO THE DCI FOR COORDINATION

SUBJECT: Status Report re Joint Study Group Recommendation 15

REFERENCE: USIB-D-1.5/6, 10 March 1961

1. Referenced document has been forwarded by the Chairman, Watch Committee, to the National Indications Center for initial staffing and recommendations. Preliminary discussion and contacts disclose that there are considerable divergences of opinion among USIB agencies as to the level of manning of NIC. No immediate action will be possible on this matter; USIB agreement in August 1960 to augment the manning of the 24-hour Watch Officer Section in NIC from one officer to one officer and a junior has yet to be fully implemented by two agencies out of five. In any case, conclusive discussion of personnel problems will be out of the question until the matter of the prospective MIA/DIA is decided, at least as far as the service agencies are concerned.

2. With respect to the forwarding to the NIC of sensitive and highly classified information bearing on the Center's mission, there has been a notable improvement in recent weeks. The NIC is better and more currently informed on US operational plans in relation to the Laos crisis, for example, than in any prior situation. This portion of Recommendation 15 cannot be "legislated;" its execution is more a function of awareness of the mission of the Watch Committee and the NIC on the part of those in a position to send such information along. The Chairman of the Watch Committee has reminded the members of the committee on several occasions to take all possible measures to ensure that this sector of information is promptly furnished the NIC. There seems to be little more that can be done in a concrete way to carry this recommendation further for the present.

Respectfully,

Charles A. North, colonel USAF

for _____

Director

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